

Assabet River

National Wildlife Refuge

Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex Fact Sheet

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D)
Senator John F. Kerry (D)
Rep. Martin T. Meehan (D-5th)

Contact

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Purpose

Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge was established for its particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program.

Public Use Notes

- The refuge is closed to the public, pending elimination of safety hazards.
- Specific public use opportunities are addressed during the comprehensive conservation planning (CCP) process.
- Public uses under consideration include natural resource education and interpretive programs, wildlife observation and photography, hunting and fishing.

Management Activities

- Conservation and management of migratory bird species
- Restoration of wetland, grassland and forest habitats
- Natural resource-related education

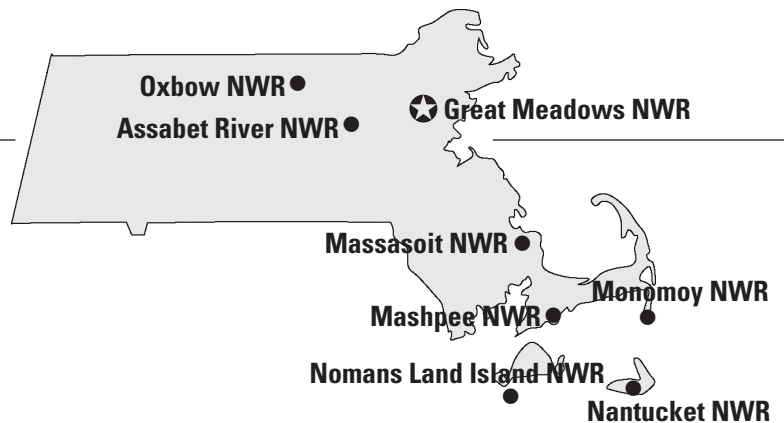
Highlights

Once known as the Fort Devens Sudbury Training Annex, this land was transferred from the U.S. Army to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2000.

Physical safety issues are being corrected so the refuge can open for public use. These include securing 33 old hand-dug wells, removing 17 old buildings, securing 8 remaining buildings and removing interior wire and fencing.

A draft CCP was released for public review and comment in 2003, and will be finalized in 2004.

The refuge habitats include freshwater wetlands, forested uplands and grasslands.



The refuge is home to a number of state-listed rare plant, bird, reptile and amphibian species.

The Friends of Assabet River NWR are very active in support of the refuge.

Issues

Many people are upset about our proposal to prohibit dogs from the refuge, charge an entrance fee and establish a limited hunt program.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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<http://www.fws.gov>

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